

CLAIMS

1. A method of storing and transporting drilling waste produced in an offshore drilling operation, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a moveable container for receiving drilling waste;

securing the container in a position below sea-level;

connecting the container to a drilling platform or vessel; and

10 conveying drilling waste from the platform or vessel to the container.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

releasing the container from its position; and

15 transporting the container to a drilling waste recycling facility.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein at least two containers are provided.

4. The method of any preceding claim further comprising the step of agitating the drilling waste within the container.

20 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the agitation step

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11. The method of any preceding claim comprising the step of macerating the drilling waste prior to conveying the waste to the container.

12. The method of any preceding claim further comprising the step of determining selected parameters of the waste prior and then adjusting said parameters before conveying the waste to the container.

5 13. The method of any preceding claim further comprising the step of adding oil to the drilling waste prior to conveying the waste to the container.

14. The method of any preceding claim further comprising the step of agitating the contents of the container whilst  
10 the container is transported to a treatment facility.

15. The method of any preceding claim further comprising the steps of:

providing an additional container; and

maintaining at least one container at the platform or  
15 vessel.

16. An apparatus for use in storage and transport of drilling waste, the apparatus comprising a moveable container for containing drilling waste; securing means for releasably securing the container in position below sea  
20 level; and connection means for connecting the container to a drilling platform or vessel.



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Wheel  
sham

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21. The apparatus of claim 19 or claim 20 wherein the agitation means comprises external fins mounted on the container, such that the container rotates in response to sea currents.

15      22. The apparatus of any one of claims 16 to 21 wherein  
the container is of adjustable buoyancy.

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24. The apparatus of any one of claims 16 to 23 wherein the connection means comprises a flexible conduit for conveying drilling waste.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein a plurality of  
5 flexible conduits are provided.

26. The apparatus of any one of claims 16 to 25 further comprising a holding tank for holding drilling waste prior to conveying the waste to the container.

27. The apparatus of any of claims 16 to 26, further  
10 comprising a macerator.

28. The apparatus of any of claims 16 or 27 further including means for determining selected parameters of the drilling waste.

29. The apparatus of any of claims 16 to 28, further  
15 comprising means for adding oil to the drilling waste.